

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3841  
INFO AMEMBASSY PRT AU PRINCE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PMIL, DR, SHUM

SUBJECT: ARMED FORCES SECRETARY REITERATES MILITARY WILL NOT  
INTERVENE IN ELECTORAL PROCESS

1. MARCH 10, ARMED FORCES SECRETARY LT. GEN. JUAN RENE BEAUCHAMP  
JAVIER REITERATED HIS EARLIER PUBLIC PLEDGE THAT ARMED FORCE  
WOULD RESPECT RESULTS OF MAY 16 ELECTION AND WOULD USE  
NEITHER PRESSURE NOR COERCION TO AFFECT ELECTORAL PROCESS.  
HE SAID FURTHER THAT THOSE MILITARY WHO DO PARTICIPATE IN  
POLITICAL ACTIVITIES WOULD BE DISMISSED, AND THOSE WHO COMMIT  
EXCESSES WOULD BE BROUGHT BEFORE MILITARY TRIBUNALS.

2. IN REMARKS MADE IN RESPONSE TO REPORTERS' QUESTIONS AT  
PUBLIC CEREMONY BEAUCHAMP ALSO SAID ARMED FORCES WOULD GIVE FULL  
SUPPORT TO ANY TYPE OF GOVERNMENT WHICH PRESIDENT BALAGUER CHOOSES  
TO FORM SHOULD HE BE REELECTED. LATTER COMMENT RESPONDED TO  
QUESTION WHETHER MILITARY WOULD SUPPORT A BALAGUER GOVERNMENT  
WHICH SOUGHT GREAT CHANGES IN DEALING WITH FOREIGN COMPANIES  
AND IN LAND REFORM.

3. BEAUCHAMP HAS SAID ON SEVERAL RECENT OCCASIONS  
THAT MILITARY POLITICAL ACTIVITY, PROHIBITED BY  
CONSTITUTION, WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. MEANWHILE,  
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NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF MAJ. GENERAL NEIT NIVAR  
ANNOUNCED MARCH 8 THAT SPECIAL COMMISSIONS OF BOTH  
POLICE AND ARMED FORCES HAVE BEEN FORMED TO INSTRUCT  
MEMBERS OF BOTH INSTITUTIONS AS TO PROPER CONDUCT DURING  
ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN.

4. AT SAME TIME BOTH NIVAR AND BEAUCHAMP HAVE RESPONDED

TO CHARGES THAT THEY THEMSELVES HAVE PARTICIPATED IN PRO-BALAGUER ACTIVITIES. NIVAR, ON FEBRUARY 27, ISSUED DENIAL HE HAD PARTICIPATED IN REFORMIST PARTY CARAVAN AS WAS REPORTED IN PRESS. ALSO, BEAUCHAMP IN HIS MARCH 10 STATEMENTS, DENIED THAT HE HAD ATTENDED SIMILAR REFORMISTA GATHERING IN SANTIAGO.

5. WHILE MILITARY/POLICE REITERATED FEALTY TO CONSTITUTION, MAJOR OPPOSITION DOMINICAN REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRD) RUNS HOT AND COLD IN TREATMENT OF INCREASINGLY DELICATE THEME OF POSSIBLE MILITARY INTERFERENCE IN ELECTION PROCESS. FOR EXAMPLE, PRD SECRETARY GENERAL JOSE FRANCISCO PENA GOMEZ, WHO HAS STUMBLED ON OCCASION INTO CONFRONTATIONS WITH MILITARY, SAID IN A MARCH 2 RADIO BROADCAST THAT ONLY WAY BALAGUER COULD BE REELECTED WAS BY "DIRECT INTERVENTION" OF ARMED FORCES. TWO DAYS LATER, AFTER IT BECAME APPARENT REMARK HAD TOUCHED SENSITIVE GANGLIA, PENA WAS EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE IN "GOOD" JUDGMENT, PATRIOTISM, AND DEMOCRATIC VOCATION" OF ARMED FORCES.

6. PRD PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ANTONIO GUZMAN HAS ALSO EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN MILITARY RECENTLY. ON MARCH 4 GUZMAN CALLED "VERY COMMENDABLE" INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED BY NIVAR IN LATE FEBRUARY THAT POLICEMEN WOULD ABSTAIN FROM PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL CARAVANS, SUCH AS ONE SPONSORED BY THE PRO-BALAGUER CRUZADA DE AMOR IN WHICH

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POLICE MINGLED FREEDLY WITH MARCHERS. ON MARCH 4, SEEING TO CORRECT PENA'S INITIAL GAFFE, GUZMAN SAID, "THE ARMED FORCES WILL RESPECT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY HAVE SAID SO ON DIFFERENT OCCASIONS THROUGH THEIR SECRETARY, LT. GEN. BEAUCHAMP JAVIER."

7. COMMENT: IT APPEARS BOTH MILITARY AND OPPOSITION PRD ARE PLAYING CAT AND MOUSE GAME OVER THEME OF MILITARY INTERVENTIONISM. AFTER TWELVE YEARS UNDER BALAGUER, AS PRESIDENT AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, MILITARY HAVE DEEP PERSONAL TIES AND LOYALTY TO PRESIDENT. IT IS NO SECRET THEY FAVOR HIS REELECTION, AND IT IS WIDELY REPORTED THAT THEY ACTIVELY WORK FOR IT BEHIND SCENES. ON OTHER HAND, PRD, WHICH IS AWARE OF THIS REALITY, CONTINUOUSLY RAISES ISSUE AS WAY OF PRE-EMPTING OPEN INTEFERENCE BY MILITARY IN ELECTIONS. POSITIVE ASPECT WHICH IS EMERGING IS WIDE CONSENSUS THAT WHETHER MILITARY INTERFERES OR NOT, SUCH POLITICKING IS NOT LEGITIMATE AND SHOULD BE SANCTIONED. AT SAME TIME, CURRENT ARMED FORCES ATTITUDES ON NON-INTERFERENCE REFLECT CONFIDENCE THAT BALAGUER WILL BE REELECTED.

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## Message Attributes

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